has been received from the State of Orissa in the Ministry of Food. However, on the request made by the State Government during March, 1994, the allocation of wheat to Orissa was raised from 30,000 MTs to 35,000 MTs per month from May, 1994 to April, 1995.

Charges for Stockpile of Foodgrains with FCI

2057. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the carrying cost, including cost of storage and other charges, on account of the stockpile of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the total subsidy on account of foodgrains released for public distribution through the Food Corporation during the three years indicated above; and

(c) whether Government, instead of adding to the stockpile, would consider releasing through the public distribution system larger quantities of grains than in the past at subsidised rates to poorer consumers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The carrying cost, including cost of storage and other charges incurred by Food Corporation of India for maintenance of buffer stock of foodgrains in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under:—

Year	Rs./Crores
1992-93	450.69
1993-94	1245.34
1994-95 (RE)	1719.00

(b) Food subsidy is released/paid to the Food Corporation of India for reibursement of (i) the difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their issue prices *viz.* consumer subsidy; and (ii) carrying cost of buffer stocks. Since 1992-93 Government has released/paid the follwing amounts to the F.C.I. as food subsidy:—

Year	Rs./Crores
1992-93	2,785
1993-94	5,537

In the Budget for 1994-95, a provision of Rs.5,100 crore has been made on this account. Out of this Rs. 4000 crores (including Rs. 574 crores on sugar) have so far been released towards food subsidy.

(c) Though the liftings of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System have declined due to easy availability of the same in the open market, Central Government has been making earnest endeavours to increase their off-take in the RPDS areas comprising of economically disadvantaged blocks all over the country for the benefit of poorer consumers.

Directions to FCI for Launching a Special Scheme to Procure Wheat

2058. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed the Food Corporation of India to launch a special scheme to procure wheat at higher rate from farmers who will sell their produce in October; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme including the increased rates?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of Sugar Mills in Orissa

2059. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills set up in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to promote cooperative sugar mills;

(c) if so, the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up in Orissa during Eighth and Ninth plans on cooperative basis; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) As on 31.1.1995, there were 8 installed sugar factories in the State of Orissa.

(b) As per the licensing policy Guidelines for the sugar industry announced vide Press Note dated 8.11.1991, the things being equal, preference in licensing will be given to proposals from the Cooperative Sector and the Public Sector, in that order, as compared to the private sector.

(c) and (d) The proposals received from the Cooperative Sector for issue of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar factories will be considered by the Government in accordance with the prevailing licensing policy guidelines.

Licences for new Sugar Factories

2060. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to review the existing norms for granting licences for new sugar factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a more liberal policy will be adopted for cooperative sugar factories; and

(d) if so, the details of proposed changes in policy for proposed new sugar factories?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The present policy of Licensing of Sugar Mills, including the option of delicensing, is under examination.

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

2061. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of buffer stock of foodgrains as on 31st March, 1993, 1994 and 1995;

(b) cost of operating these buffer stocks; and

(c) how Government propose to utilise higher buffer stock of foodgrains this year to keep the price line stable?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) The quantum of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in Central Pool as on 31.3.1993, 31.3.1994 and estimated stock position as on 31.3.1995 is as under:—

(In million tonnes)

As on	Wheat	Rice	Total
31.3.1993 (P)	2.74	9.93	12.67
31.3.1994 (P)	7.00	13.55	20.55
31.3.1995 (P)	8.58	18.55	27.13

(P)—Provisional

(b) The carrying cost of buffer stock for the year 1992-93 was Rs. 103.65 per quintal, Rs. 117.16 per quintal for the year 1993-94 and it is estimated at Rs. 108.62 per quintal for the year 1994-95.

(c) Apart from regular releases for Public Distribution System in order to keep the price line stable, the FCI is selling wheat and rice in the open market at prices below the FCI's Economic Cost. from Oct., 93 to March, 1994 a quantity of 2.70 million tonnes and for the period April 1994 to January, 1995 a quantity of 3.65 million tonnes of wheat and rice under the open sale scheme were sold in open market. Besides, wheat is being allotted to Modern Food Industries (I) Ltd. and its franchised units at a rate lower than the Central Issue Price